

imprints

The Newsletter of Literacy BC

Literacy Research: An Overview

Today, there is a literacy research network in place in B.C. due in part to the efforts of Audrey Thomas, currently Education Officer, Developmental Programs, University Colleges and Program Planning Branch, Ministry of Advanced Education Training and Technology (MAETT). Audrey is the author of numerous research studies including *The Reluctant Learner* (1990) and *Opening Minds Behind Closed Doors: Literacy in B.C. Corrections* (1992).

The impetus to start a literacy research network in B.C. came from roundtable discussions on research among participants at the 1997 Provincial Literacy Forum in Victoria. Spurred by this interest, the (then) Ministry of Education, Skills, and Training arranged a day-long consultation on Adult Literacy Research in Practice for February 1998 in Vancouver, to continue the discussion and explore ideas more thoroughly. The idea was to lay the groundwork for

developing a literacy research initiative in B.C.

At Literacy BC's 1998 Summer Literacy Institute, a course on "Action Research" led by Allan Quigley, an Associate Professor of Adult Education at St. Francis Xavier University with expertise in the field, sparked renewed interest in literacy research in B.C. After the Institute, plans for building an action research network here began to take shape. Literacy BC opened up a research conference on "The Hub", the electronic conferencing system partnered with Capilano College.

To continue the momentum, and engage a larger number of practitioners, MAETT with the Centre for Curriculum Transfer and Technology, through Audrey, arranged a follow-up "Research Day" — a Literacy Research in Practice seminar — last November at Kwantlen University College. At the time, Audrey said she was "delighted to see an enthusiastic response from literacy practitioners to

Continued on page two...

IN THIS ISSUE:

Inside:

- ...Research
- ...Family Literacy
- ...New Resources
- ...National News

Literacy Research: An Overview (cont'd)

learn more about and actually undertake research to improve their practice.”

We asked Audrey for her thoughts now on literacy research in B.C.

What is important about action research?

Improvement in practice and professional development are two key aspects stressed by Allan Quigley in his work on action research. Quigley defines action research as a “hands-on” method of research that encourages a “problem-solving” way of seeing our work and enables us to conduct systematic “trial and error” on the job. This practical emphasis helps demystify research and put it within reach. This is important in helping people contribute to building and documenting the knowledge base about our field.

Research questions can emerge from thoughtful evaluations or program review – results can help orient programs in new directions. Improvements in practice can help provide better learning opportunities for the learners the programs are trying to serve.

What have you done to stimulate activity in research here in B.C.? How did it evolve?

Although I had taught in ABE for five years, and worked in various community ventures for another five years, my entrée to the world of adult literacy per se was through research.

I enjoy solving puzzles, trying to find answers to questions, writing up the process and seeing how patterns emerge. Before obtaining my present government position I was an independent consultant for many years and worked on a number of challenging literacy projects.

A few years ago the National Literacy Secretariat held a policy conversation on research. A follow-up seminar was held in Edmonton in the fall of 1997 and I began to think how, I, as a government employee, could help stimulate or develop a research network. The roundtables and the research days in February and November last year were the results.

Tell us about the link with UBC.

Allison Tom, an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Studies at UBC, presented a workshop at the Research Day last fall, which was very well received, so arrangements were made for Allison to be available to practitioners who might need help with developing research proposals for project funding — either through the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) or the cost-shared program.

One of Allison’s major research interests is in learning how university researchers can work effectively with community practitioners — including those in literacy. Allison has consented, on a continuing basis, to provide help and counsel to anyone wishing to discuss a literacy research idea. She has provided consultation in the electronic conference on developing research cost-shared proposals, and can be reached on-line and through UBC.

Continued on page three...

Literacy Research: An Overview (cont'd)

Where do you see the research network going now?

I would like to work towards the identification of key literacy themes or issues around which collaborative research could be done. One way to build the network is to have practitioners in different settings in different parts of the province follow through on similar themes, and have opportunities for training and support along the way. The Ministry (MAETT) has, through the

cost-shared program, some resources to provide for this. I am open to suggested themes and think we can use the research conference on the electronic network to get some dialogue and activity going in the fall.

There is great potential to develop literacy research, especially with the NLS's current partnership with the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). One aspect of this initiative is

the partnership between the academic world and the literacy field. Each should be able to inform the other. Some useful and interesting projects hopefully will emerge.

I want to encourage practitioners to reflect on their practice and provide some measure of support to help them do that. Any practitioners with ideas for collaborative research themes can contact me on: **The Hub (First Class)** or at: **Audrey.Thomas@gems5.gov.bc.ca.**

Research on the electronic network

Practitioners:

- share the results of your research projects
- stay in touch with research friends or develop new friends
- identify new questions, and take part in a dialogue about research in practice
- learn about existing and new resources in literacy research
- benefit from access to research consultation



To find out how you can take part in the electronic research conference, contact Sandy Middleton at Literacy BC, 1-800-663-1293. E-mail: S_middleton@douglas.bc.ca

Study Highlights

"It Guided Me Back to Learning"

*A Longitudinal Research Study on Calls to the Literacy BC Helpline
Literacy BC and Bancroft Planning and Research Associates*

This study examined issues related to participation in literacy education among a finite sample of adults with low literacy skills who called the Literacy BC helpline for information about literacy and ABE programs in their communities.

The report will be distributed shortly. To ensure you receive a copy, call Literacy BC at 1-800-663-1293.

I just want to have that GED because I've been trying to do it for years. I've been on social assistance since I was 20. I want to get forward in my life... my son's in a foster home... I want to help him when he gets older.

Before I never really thought I needed it... I thought I would always get by but now I can't... I need to get a job but I can't fill out an application, I can't fill out UIC forms, I can't use the computer to look at the job bank at the UIC office... if somebody gives me directions I can't follow them.

This 12-month study was intended to address critical and longstanding issues within the literacy field about recruitment and retention in literacy education. In light of recent research by Statistics Canada (1996) on the literacy skills of Canadians, the study was also intended to contribute to our understanding of the social and economic factors which currently influence student participation in our province. A related goal was to evaluate the role of the helpline: do callers access and participate in the programs we help them to locate?

Quantitative and qualitative data were collected from 248 callers to the helpline between August 1996 and March 1997. With their permission, data were collected from callers at four points in time: during the initial call, and in follow-up calls made by Literacy BC staff at two, five and eight months after the original call.

Highlights of the study findings include:

Characteristics of the sample population.

- Fifty-two percent were unemployed and, of these, 48% received income assistance and 14% employment insurance.
- Of those who were working, 23% had full-time jobs, which were typically low or semi-skilled or in the declining resource sector.
- Seventy percent had less than grade 12. Thirty percent were high school graduates, with lower skills than their education suggests.
- Only 11% of learners were 45 or over. One percent were aged 70 or more.

What motivates Learners to improve their skills at this time in their lives?

- Learners expressed a range of economic, personal and social goals and attached many different meanings to literacy. Usually motivated by more than one factor, they wanted to participate in literacy education:
 - to improve their employment and income opportunities (41%)
 - to increase their level of education (20%)
 - to improve their ability to perform daily functional tasks (11%)
 - to develop personally and socially (10%)
 - to meet family responsibilities and improve the lives of their families (5%)
 - because they were encouraged by others (5%)

"It Guided Me Back to Learning" (cont'd)

All they've done is put me through those stupid courses like how to write a resume and stuff like that, but nothing like reading or anything. They just said, why don't you go work at the Burger King?

He went back to work and he's working 30 hours a week overtime. There's a priority in life.

I've been trying to get to school all this time but there's a big waiting list. They've got such a waiting list, it's unbelievable.

It's on the back burner right now. It's very difficult to mumble your way through.

There's not enough support in the evening class - there's only one instructor for 10 to 12 students.

He ended up having to quit because he had to go on Income Assistance. They told him you have to be on social services for seven months before they'll put you in school. He was enrolled at the college and doing great, and they told him he had to go out and get a job...

It filled a void. It made me feel like I was doing something with my life.

Before I couldn't even write a word; now I can express myself in writing.

- Of the two-fifths motivated by employment, literacy education was viewed as a means to:
 - get a job (45%)
 - improve career opportunities (45%)
 - keep a job (10%)
- Almost 80% of those receiving income assistance indicated that they had not been offered, or encouraged to take, literacy upgrading. Their anecdotal comments suggest that social welfare policies and personnel:
 - restrict access to literacy training
 - place unrealistic time expectations on the training when offered
 - tend to want to "fast-track" clients into low-wage jobs.

What barriers do Learners experience to calling, enrolling, and participating in a program?

- Eighty-six percent of those who called the helpline went on to make the second call to a program. The 12% who did not call said they were too busy, did not feel confident in making the call, or had negative feelings about the program.
- Only 52% of those who called a program, enrolled. Thirty-six percent said they were too busy to enroll, usually because of work. Thirty-one percent cited a problem with the program, such as waiting lists, lack of follow-up by the program, or the fact that the program was at the wrong level.
- Ninety-seven percent of those who enrolled, participated in a program.
- Twenty-two percent of those who participated dropped out by five months. The drop-out rate increased to 43% by eight months. Reasons for dropping out were usually program-related or situational.

What is the impact of participation?

- Learners overwhelmingly found their program experience positive and beneficial.
- Sixty-eight percent said the skill training they received in the program was what they had been looking for and needed, and 46% said they had increased their abilities in specific literacy skills and comprehension.
- Suggestions Learners gave for improvement included more instructors, more diverse and accessible program materials, more individual guidance, more hours of instruction per week, and at more flexible times, especially during the summer.

Focus on...New Developments in Research

Workplace Research – The WED Project

A research project to define ways to make workplace education courses as relevant and accessible as possible to workers and learners is underway across Canada and in B.C.

The project — Workplace Education Development (WED): Customizing Accreditation Curricula — is studying how workplace educators tailor their programs, such as the GED, to suit the backgrounds and learning styles of workers. The project uses the essential skills profiles of 150 entry-level occupations developed by Human Resources Development Canada and correlates them with the skills common to the GED. The research will examine how materials and teaching techniques can be used to make the teaching of these common skills relevant and accessible.

WED researcher Sheila Whincup, based in Sooke, is designing the research and training contacts to visit programs and gather data in B.C. “We recognize that instructional design is often in progress and not formalized,” says Sheila, “but that will be part of our task,

to communicate what works well.”

“Creative customizing” of curricula, says Project Coordinator Ann Haney, is a common practice and recognizing and describing this work will help practitioners who don’t have the time or resources to work on curriculum development.

The NLS project is administered by the

Workplace Education Manitoba Steering Committee with direction from Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

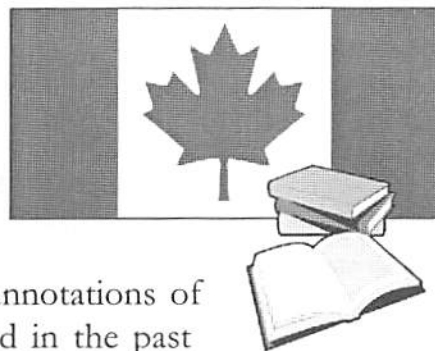
For more information, contact:

Sheila Whincup
WED Researcher
2975 Young Lake Road
Sooke, B.C. V0S 1N0
Phone/Fax: (250) 642-2800
E-mail: wh@guild.bc.ca

Directory of Canadian Literacy Research

Wanted: Canadian Research

A comprehensive directory of Canadian adult literacy research is being developed by The University of Alberta’s Centre for Research on Literacy.



The directory will contain annotations of Canadian research completed in the past five years as well as research in progress, and in some cases, full length research documents. When completed, the directory will be accessed through the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD).

If you are currently working on a research project, and would like to find out more, please contact:

Pat Campbell

Centre for Research on Literacy, Faculty of Education
653 Education South, University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G5
Phone: (780) 492-2984 Fax (780) 492-0113
E-mail: Patty.Campbell@ualberta.ca

Focus on...New Developments in Family Literacy

National Children's Agenda

Federal and provincial governments have joined together to develop a comprehensive, long-term strategy to improve the well-being of children.

Children's issues were identified as priority at a First Ministers Conference in June, 1996, and responsibility for a National Children's Agenda was given to the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Council of Ministers on Social Policy Renewal.

The **National Children's Agenda (NCA)** is led by governments but is intended to include communities, voluntary groups, employers and the general public. The NCA supports the critical and primary role that parents, families and the community play in the lives of children.

The Council has now released a discussion paper called, *A National Children's Agenda: Developing a Shared Vision*, to launch a national discussion about what we, as a society, want for our children.

Another NCA paper, called *Measuring Child Well-being and Monitoring Progress*, explores

ways in which people and governments can measure the progress of our children and share effective practices.

The NCA has developed four goals that reflect the emerging common ground among those interested in child development.

Good Health: Raising children who are as physically, emotionally and spiritually healthy as they can be, with strong self-esteem, coping skills and enthusiasm

Safety and Security: Meeting children's basic needs (food, shelter, clothing and transportation), protecting children from abuse, neglect, discrimination, and exploitation, and providing support from caring adults

Success at Learning: Creating opportunities for children to reach their potential for physical and social development, language skills, literacy, numeracy and general knowledge.

Social Engagement and Responsibility: Making sure that children can form stable attachments to nurturing adults when they are young and develop strong, supportive

relationships within and outside their families.

Family Literacy Project Coordinator
Jean

Rasmussen attended a regional roundtable discussion with other B.C. partners in the NCA on June 8.

To move forward with the National Children's Agenda, governments are also asking for your comments.

Contact the National Children's Agenda (NCA) toll-free number (1-800-361-6392) for a copy of the two NCA discussion papers or download from the NCA website:

www.children-enfants.org

The toll free line will be operative for your feedback until the middle of August.

You can also contact :
Gavin Brown
Ministry for Children and Families
Phone: (250) 387-1944
Fax: (250) 356-5988
E-mail: gfbrown@ssrv.gov.bc.ca



Focus on...New Developments in Family Literacy

Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-being

Centres of Excellence for Children's Well-being is a national initiative of Health Canada, Childhood and Youth Division, Health Promotions and Programs Branch.

The goal is to contribute to federal leadership on children's issues by improving the government's understanding of children and what they need to develop in healthy ways.

The Centres of Excellence will:

- collect and analyse data on children's health and well-being
- conduct focussed research on key child health and development issues
- provide policy advice to governments and health and social services organizations
- strengthen and expand local, national, and international networks of individuals and groups involved in children's health and well-being.

In March this year, Centres for Excellence began a "Search for Issues." More than 700 people across the

country were contacted for their input. These included representatives from community, academic, research, and non-governmental organizations, as well as federal and provincial governments.

Jean Rasmussen, our Family Literacy Project Coordinator and Leona Gadsby, Regional Coordinator for the East Kootenays — a region with several active family literacy programs — represented Literacy BC at a "Search for Issues" meeting in Vancouver on April 9.

Among the themes that have emerged from the "Search for Issues" are:

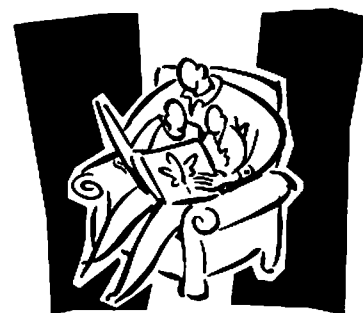
- Availability of and access to high quality child care and early childhood education
- Disabilities (mental and physical)
- Strengthening and supporting learning capacities, readiness to learn and success in school
- Creating integrated programs, policies and services to families

Health Canada plans to issue an announcement on selected issues soon.

Mark your calendars!

Next year's
**National Family Literacy
Day**
is scheduled for
January 27, 2000.

**Mark your calendars now
...We will be providing
more details in the fall.**



**FAMILY LITERACY
DAY**

To find out more about the Centres of Excellence, contact Jean at Literacy BC.

**Centres of Excellence for
Children's Well-Being
Childhood and Youth Division
Health Promotion and
Programs Branch
Health Canada
9th Floor, Room D990, Jeanne
Mance Building
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4
Fax: (613) 952-7046
E-mail:
centres@www.hc-sc.gc.ca
Website:
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/centres**

Campaign 2000 – A National Initiative

Campaign 2000 — another national initiative — proposes that, “investing in Canada’s children should become the first mission of the new millennium.” Campaign 2000 is a non-partisan, cross-Canada coalition of over 700 national, provincial and community partner organizations.

Campaign 2000 has released “benchmarks” for the Year 2000 federal budget that call for “a five year social investment plan for Canada’s children with clear federal objectives and targets,” and “a commitment to grow federal investments in children and their families by at least one per cent of

our national wealth over five years.”

In a discussion paper released this month, it also proposes a series of major federal initiatives, including a national infrastructure fund available for early childhood learning and care. This would be a fund to support the development of public systems of early learning and care across Canada.

A pamphlet available from Campaign 2000 describes changes in child poverty trends and statistics since 1989. Report cards on child poverty are available from some Campaign 2000 provincial and community partners.

Contact:

Liyu Guo
Campaign 2000
c/o Family Service Association
355 Church Street
Toronto, Ontario M5B 1Z8
Phone: (416) 595-9230, Ext. 244
Fax: (416) 595-0242
E-mail: liyuguo@web.net
Website: www.campaign2000.ca

A national initiative with a B.C. angle...

The Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs has just launched a project to increase the ability of family resource programs to support literacy development in the families they serve. Materials developed will help family programs to:

- assess their literacy needs and help participants to access existing literacy programs in the community
- incorporate literacy-building activities into their current programs and services
- develop new literacy initiatives with other partners

Lee Weinstein and Suzanne Smythe from B.C. are involved in the project.

For more information, contact
Lee Weinstein at (604) 730-6844.
E-mail: leegee@radiant.net

Family Resource Programs Canada
Phone: (613) 728-3307
E-mail: aivask@frp.ca



END CHILD POVERTY IN CANADA

Focus on...New Developments in Family Literacy

First Call – Spotlight on Children and Youth

"The earliest years of life create the wiring and sculpting of the brain for the future. This is the base for learning, behaviour and health throughout the life cycle. Therefore, community initiatives that support the early years of life must be encouraged. The Spotlight on Children and Youth Campaign is one such community initiative that invites our involvement to ensure that all children get a good start in life."



spotlight
on children & youth

*Dr. Fraser Mustard,
Founding President and Bell Canada Fellow
of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research*

First Call — B.C.'s child and Youth Advocacy Movement — is a coalition of 40 provincial organizations and hundreds of community groups who promote legislation, policy and practice to help children and youth to achieve their full potential.

The First Call mission states that children and youth must receive a "first call" on society's resources because they are our future.

The Spotlight on Children and Youth Campaign identifies four key areas where action is most urgently needed. These are:

- **Early childhood development** — improve the health of infants, and increase the readiness of young children for school.
- **The transition from childhood to youth to adulthood** — increase the

readiness of youth for high school and of older youth for adult roles (getting a job, being a parent, being an active member of the community).

- **Increased economic equality** — end youth and child poverty, reduce the gap between high and low income earners.

- **Safe and caring communities** — build safe, violence-free communities.

Literacy BC is represented on the First Call Steering Committee by our Family Literacy Project Coordinator, Jean Rasmussen. As well, First Call has contact people in most B.C. communities. To find a local action group nearest you, call 1-800-307-1212.

To find out more, call Jean at 1-800-663-1293 or contact:

First Call BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition

Cindy Carson, Coordinator

L408 - 4480 Oak Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3V4

Phone: (604) 875-3629

Fax: (604) 875-3569

Toll free: 1-800-307-1212

E-mail: info@firstcallbc.org

Website: www.firstcallbc.org

New Family Literacy Resources Available from Literacy BC

Alfred Reading Series -

Darrell W. Pelletier. Alfred's First Day at School. Alfred's Summer. The Big Storm. The Pow-Wow. Lisa and Sam. An example of aboriginal children's literature.

Let's Play Literacy!:

A Parent's Guide to Helping Your Child Get Ready to Read, Write, and Count - *Project READ Literacy Network*

Reading Together at Home:

A Literacy Program for You and Your Child - *Discovery Quest*

A set of 24 books that give children, over four stages of reading development, exposure to four kinds of reading genres with a Parents' Handbook.

Look what's New

on our shelves...

Going West.

People, Words and Change

A "story of immigration and homesteading in the Canadian west . . . by a modern Canadian woman through the journals of her pioneering grandmother." Geared to new readers with illustrations and black and white photos. (1999).

Meals for Good Health Manual.

Karen Graham

A supplement to the *Meals for Good Health* recipe book, the manual provides nutritional analyses of various ingredients of these recipes. (1998).

Not Too Long Ago ... Seniors Tell Their Stories. Seniors Resource Centre, St. John's, Newfoundland.

A collection of 66 stories and poems from Newfoundland and Labrador seniors. In addition to serving as a reader for adult new readers, it is also a documentation of the province's culture and history. (1999).

Push

Sapphire. (Random House 1996)

This novel is about an African-American teenage

girl, a victim of physical and sexual abuse, who learns to express herself through writing and finds a personal sense of worth.

Harm's Way: The Many Faces of Violence and Abuse against Persons with Disabilities

This informative publication identifies the many varieties of violence and abuse that the disabled in Canada encounter. It also takes a look at the Canadian legal system and government policies, evaluating whether they serve the best interests of the disabled.

AND...

Out of Harm's Way: A Safety Kit for People with Disabilities Who Feel Unsafe and Want to Do Something about It

A guide to preventative measures against the threat of abuse for people with disabilities. The guide describes how to protect oneself within particular physical environments, policies and procedures that can safeguard well-being, and relationships that may potentially be harmful. Roehrer Institute. (1995).

Community Computer Literacy.

Houston Link to Learning

Documents how this community group successfully brought computers into three interactive environments — a workplace lunchroom, the local library, and the learning centre — and increased computer literacy in the community. (1998).

Easy to Read Air Brake Manual.

Yukon Learn

This plain language guide explains how different kinds of air brake systems function. It is meant to supplement the motor vehicle laws that apply in a province or territory. Illustrated with black and white drawings. (1999).

From the Heart: Writings by Kelowna Women.

Kelowna Lifewriting Workshop.

Highly personal explorations and expressions of the self and of relationships in an anthology of poems, short stories, and personal reflections. (1999).

Continued on page 12...

Look what's New

Resources

on our shelves...

Breaking Barriers: A Model for Literate Citizenship. Hazelton Learners Opportunities Group.

This study presents "a model designed to provide a curriculum for citizenship and literacy." It is based on the needs of young people, aged 15-24, in the First Nations communities in the Upper Skeena region of B.C. (1998).

Getting It Together: Collaboration Models for Community Groups. Community Agency Partnership Project.

A guidebook with practical suggestions on how community groups can collaborate with other nonprofit organizations. Using 11 case studies of B.C. community collaborations, the guide provides useful advice for nonprofits, funders, consultants, students and practitioners. (1999).

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a complimentary copy of **Federal Literacy Facts**, an update on literacy-related initiatives at the federal level.

Work is a 4-Letter Word. Project Literacy West Kootenay/Caroline Woodward

This reader, a BC cost-shared project, is a compilation of five short stories that revolve around people's attitudes towards entry-level jobs in various settings. (1999). *Eighty free copies are available for distribution at Literacy BC.*

Annotated Bibliography on Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

The first annotated bibliography on Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) has been published by Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). The bibliography contains 793 annotated entries organized in 55 sections. The bibliography is available on the Canadian Labour Force Development Board website: www.plar.com/database/index.html.

A limited number of printed copies, freely reproducible, are available now.

To order, contact: plar@oise.utoronto.ca before August 1, or:

Canadian Labour Force Development Board PLAR
66 Slater St.
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H1
Phone: (613) 230-6264
Fax: (613) 230-7681

Plan to attend PLAR 99 in Vancouver
Learning has no boundaries ... PLAR AS A TOOL FOR TRANSITION
Third National Forum on Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition
November 14-17, 1999
Vancouver, B.C.

For more information, contact:

PLAR 99 Secretariat
103 - 858 Bank Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 3W3
Phone: 1-800-528-8043
E-mail: plar99@plar.com
Website: www.plar.com/plar99



All of the resources
listed here are available
for borrowing from
Literacy BC.

Phone 1-800-663-1293

Look what's New

Resources

on our shelves...

The Legal Services Society of B.C. (LSS) 1999 Publications Catalogue is available free to anyone in B.C.

LSS publications are written and designed to make the law more understandable and useful. Most are produced for B.C. residents and relate to the laws in B.C. The catalogue includes publications on aboriginal law, advocacy materials, employment, family law, human rights and many other topics.

To obtain a copy, fax the LSS (604) 682-0965 or contact:

Distribution

Legal Services Society of B.C.
1500 - 1140 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4G1

You can also visit the LSS website at www.vcn.bc.ca/lssbc

Ongoing Assessment Tracking Model for Volunteer Tutoring Programs (Assessment Kit). Kingston Literacy.

A manual that covers topics such as recognizing student achievement more effectively, encouraging more student participation, ongoing assessment, record keeping and portfolio development.

Exploring Literacy: How Teachers and Parents Can Collaborate to Support Early Literacy. British Columbia Teachers' Federation Research

This publication outlines various strategies and

practices that promote children's literacy through parent-teacher collaboration. It includes descriptions of successful, locally developed programs and the results of local teacher research.

THE LITERACY MATERIALS BULLETIN

19
Spring 1999

• instructors • tutors • learners • administrators • coordinators • librarians • resource centres • learning centres •

The *Bulletin* is created twice a year by a group of instructors and students from across B.C. The Bulletin is free to anyone in B.C. in the literacy field and available out of province for a small fee. For detailed reviews of the following resources, see Bulletin 19. Copies of this issue are still available from Literacy BC.

Four Corners Series:

The Tomb of the Emperor, Message from Africa, Mystery of the Czar, Secret of the Pyramid, and Night Boat to Crete

A Woman's Labour: A Collection of Writings by Women of Newfoundland and Labrador

Mathematical Reasoning through Verbal Analysis, Book 1. Student Workbook and Teacher's Manual

Natural Disasters: Earth Science Readings

Long Ago in Victoria

Creative Solving Problem Activities, Book A-1

Vancouver Stories People in Its History and Places in Its History.

People and Places in Its History: Reading and Writing Exercises

Discovering the Iceman

The Way It Is: Readings for Adult Students (extra copies available at Literacy BC)

About Smoking (Intermediate and Advanced)

Tips on Quitting

Renters Have Rights

Focus on...Conferences

Professional Development Courses

Region VI Correctional
Education Association (CEA) Fall
Conference

Coast Plaza Suite Hotel
Vancouver, B.C.

Sunday, October 31 to
Tuesday, November 2, 1999

Beyond 2000 —Present and Future Issues in Corrections

Workshops and
presentations on youth
violence and gangs; native
issues; recidivism; learning
disabilities; drugs and
behaviour; and more.

For further details on
presenting or registering
contact:

Frank Wise
Conference Chair
Correctional Education
Association
Fax: (604) 796-4501
E-mail: fwise@uniserve.com



The Canadian Public Health Association National Literacy
and Health Program presents *Charting the Course for
Literacy and Health in the New Millennium*

May 28 - 30, 2000
Ottawa, Ontario

Call for presenters for workshops on a variety of
themes, including:

- equitable access to health information
- improving the education and training of health professionals
- learning from learners
- developing literacy partnerships

The conference will bring together health professionals,
educators and administrators; literacy practitioners and
advocates; academic and community-based
researchers; government and health policy-makers;
pharmaceutical companies; health consumers

For more information, contact

Canadian Public Health Association Conference Department
400 — 1565 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 8R1
Phone (613) 725-3769
Fax: (613) 725-9826
E-mail: conferences@cpha.ca
Website: www.nald.ca/nlhp.htm

First Canadian Conference on Literacy and Health

Charting the Course for Literacy and Health in the New Millennium



May 28 - 30, 2000
Ottawa, Ontario

Focus on...Conferences

Professional Development Courses

Call for Abstracts for:

The Early Years: Supporting Children and Families

Date: January 27- 29, 2000

Location: Coast Plaza at Stanley Park

1733 Comox Street
Vancouver

For more information,
contact

The Early Years Continuing
Education Department
UBC

Phone: 604-822-4965 or

Fax: 604-822-4835

E-mail: elaine@cehs.ubc.ca

One to one tutorial lessons
for students, aged six to
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To register, contact:

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Centre of Northern B.C.

Prince George

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Prince George, B.C. V2L 1P9

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- Balanced early literacy
- Family literacy
- Reading and writing connections
- ...and more

The Early Literacy Network is a grassroots organization of educators concerned about early literacy. The Institute is designed by and for early literacy educators (including classroom, ESL, resource and learning assistance teachers).

Contact:

Ria Zapf, Project Office

The Early Literacy Network

Faculty of Education

Simon Fraser University

Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6

Phone: (604) 291-4156

Fax: (604) 291-5950

Multisensory Learning Summer School

Training for parents, tutors
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Gillingham approach to
reading, writing and spelling
August 9 - 20, 1999

Growing with Literacy

1999 Summer Institute on

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programs

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Seaquam Secondary School

Delta, B.C.

Themes include

- Early intervention

Call for Papers and Workshops

Rural Communities and Identities in the Global Millennium

An international, national and provincial conference on issues affecting rural communities of interest to those involved in rural education, health, social services, and community development.

Rural Teachers Association of B.C. Provincial Conference

May 1 - 5, 2000

Malaspina University College, Nanaimo

Contact:

Jim Montgomery, Conference Coordinator

montgomeryj@mala.bc.ca

Visit the Conference Website at: www.mala.bc.ca/ruralconf

Focus on...National News

Movement for Canadian Literacy

MCL has elected a new Executive Committee for 1999-2000. They are:

President and Chair:

Ann Marie Downie,
Nova Scotia Provincial
Literacy Coalition

Vice President:

Marian Zaichkowski,
New Brunswick Committee
on Literacy

Secretary:

Isa Helfield,
Literacy Partners of Quebec

Treasurer:

Jocelyn Robertson,
Alberta Association for
Adult Literacy

Learners' Spokesperson:

Dorothy Silver,
New Brunswick

Learners' Advisory Network:

Dan Haley,
Ontario

Past President:

Nayda Veeman,
Saskatchewan Literacy
Network

Linda Mitchell, Executive
Director of Literacy BC, has
resigned as the B.C.
representative on the MCL
Board. Literacy BC
President Paul Gallagher
replaces her.

Recently, the Literacy BC
Board appointed Wendy
Koivisto, who lives in
Courtenay, as the BC
representative on the MCL
Learners Network.

Wendy says: "I would like to
be the representative for

B.C. because I feel I have a
connection with other
students and would be able
to advocate well on their
behalf. Literacy is an
important right for all
people. Access to tutoring
and educating the public are
but a few ways to get this
started. I believe in literacy
and what it can do for
people. That is why I want
to go to Ottawa and
represent all the literacy
students for B.C."

Wendy has been on the
Board of the Community
Adult Literacy and Learning
Society (CALLS) in
Courtenay for two years.
She was also the student
chairperson and student
representative for Learners
Talking to Learners and a
member of the External
Review Committee for
Literacy Cost-Shared
Projects.

Staff Changes at MCL:

MCL Executive Director
Craig McNaughton will end
his contract as of June 30.
MCL President Ann Marie
Downie said Craig has
successfully guided MCL
through an important
transitional period. When he

Continued on page 17...

About the MCL Newsletter...

literacy.ca is an
"information
space" for the
literacy

community in

Canada. Its purpose is to keep busy literacy workers
posted on the most useful resources and research.
Check MCL's website at www.literacy.ca for more
information.

If you would like Literacy BC to send you a copy of
literacy.ca, call us at 1-800-663-1293.



ABE Students Get Common Credential

A common graduation credential has been established for B.C. adult basic education students with the introduction of the new B.C. Adult Graduation Diploma.

The common credential means that adult learners can take courses through school districts, colleges or both and get similar credits. It will make it easier for students moving across the province and across educational system to get credit for their courses.

The B.C. Adult Graduation Diploma replaces the two credentials that are currently awarded — the Adult Dogwood Diploma by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the ABE Provincial Diploma provided

by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology (MAETT).

The plan is to implement the new credential starting September 1, 1999 in some colleges and school districts. The new Diploma will be completely phased in by September 1, 2000.

The ABE Transitions Project is a joint initiative of the two education ministries. The goal of the Transitions Project is to work toward a coordinated ABE system with a more integrated, learner-centred approach to ABE programming.

The ABE Transition Project builds on the work done by a Joint Committee on ABE which in 1995 recommended establishing a common adult

graduation credential as well as:

- joint college/school district regional planning for ABE delivery
- improved articulation of courses — making credit for learning more portable across the two systems
- a standard framework for program quality and accountability

Intended outcomes of the project include streamlined, faster paths to further training and employment and a more effective ABE system.

The common credential was announced on May 28 by Education Minister Paul Ramsey and Advanced Education Minister Andrew Petter.

Movement for Canadian Literacy (cont'd)

started in November, 1996, MCL was in transition and his job was to move the organization to the development of a three year strategic plan. Over the past two years, the job has been...to ensure that MCL became a functioning coalition of coalitions. With that work done, it makes sense for both Craig and MCL to move to new challenges. Anne Marie

expressed her appreciation for Craig's contribution both to MCL and to the literacy movement in Canada.

Wendy DesBrisay, currently editor of the MCL newsletter, *literacy.ca*, will serve as acting Executive Director until a replacement is appointed. Wendy has a long association with MCL and with the literacy community.

News from Literacy BC

Anne Knott, who has joined our staff part-time to assist with projects and special events was elected to the Board of Laubach Literacy of Canada (and is chair of the Laubach Communications Committee). Congratulations, Anne! Wayne Cunningham from Kamloops was also elected to the Laubach board...Wayne is also the new representative from the Cariboo region on our Board. Welcome, Wayne!

Focus on...News from British Columbia

The Regional Coordination Project Continues...

Literacy BC has continued to provide consultation, information and support for nine regional coordinators, who are winding up activity in their regions and preparing for another busy year...Here are some highlights from four of the regions.

Donna Kane, Regional Coordinator for the Northern Lights region, says the key activity there is a better communication network between the eight campus areas with the development of a literacy website (www.nlc.bc.ca/literacy), a group e-mail address and a conference site on The Hub (Literacy BC's FirstClass conferencing system). Also key, says Donna, is the development of new partnerships with school districts, libraries and aboriginal groups.

In the Cariboo, Regional Coordinator **Bill McDonald** says, "the big event is the creation of the Partnership in Learning Centre in Williams Lake. This will be a community based literacy service for any adult in the area with literacy issues. It will deliver a free one to one tutoring service. The centre is the result of a partnership with the local Rotary Club, University College of the Cariboo, Williams Lake Public Library, the Learning Disabilities Association and the Canadian Mental Health Association. A key event in bringing this all together was a workshop on forming partnerships presented by Gavin Perryman in February. Also important was raising the profile of literacy as a community issue over the last year or so."

From Malaspina/North Island, **Christina Patterson** reports: One activity in my region in the past six months has been the workshops Kate Nonesuch and I have delivered. We've been in Courtenay, Cowichan and Powell River with 25 to 40 literacy instructors, tutors, tutor

coordinators and program managers at each session. Kate does her "Never Fail Writing Method" and I do "Physical Learning". The workshops have been well received. People are taking this information back into their learning settings and trying to incorporate some of the teachings. Participants have included local school district personnel, ABE instructors and tutors from Malaspina and North Island College, community adult learning centres, workplace education centres, and Native adult learning programs. These workshops give people an opportunity to meet each other and hear what other people are doing.

And, from the Selkirk region, **Jennifer Cliff-Marks** sends news of some exciting recent activity in the area of professional development, which she would like to pass on to PD trainers. Margaret Read McDonald, a storyteller and writer from Washington state, recently gave a workshop on storytelling and family literacy in Grand Forks followed by a family literacy event the next day, which was a huge success. The workshop was well attended and very well received.



Regional coordinators and friends meet in Vancouver.

Word on the Street

Back for year five in 1999!
Sunday, September 16, 1999
Library Square at Robson
and Homer Street
11 am to 6 pm

It's the 10th annual nationwide celebration of literacy and the literacy arts as Vancouver joins Toronto, Halifax, Calgary and Ottawa in a day of readings, book-selling, literacy promotion, family fun and live entertainment — all free of charge.

New this year at
WOTS...Starbucks Literacy
Lane will celebrate and

THE WORD ON THE STREET

promote family literacy with exhibitors, hands-on activities and readings for all ages. Expect Vancouver Grizzlies' appearances, courtesy of Orca Bay (and their giant inflatable running shoe), the Vancouver Sun's "Raise a Reader" venue, adult learners, resources for parents and more.

Word on the Street will bring back many festival favourites — Authors' Tent, Make-a-Book Activity, Family Stage, Writers Workshops and more.

For information, contact
Brian Pike and Liesl Jauk,
Producers
#107 — 100 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1R8
Phone (604) 684-8266
Fax (604) 684-5788
E-mail: wots@Infinet.net



Job Opportunity...

Learners Talking to Learners — Regional Learner Events, a 1999/2000 literacy cost-shared project, is in need of a new Coordinator.

The part time work will include:

- processing applications from provincial learner groups
- organizing and facilitating the Provincial Learner Events Advisory Committee meetings and the project's evaluation subcommittee meeting
- submitting applications and reports to funding agencies
- editing *Learners Talking to Learners*, the annual collection of writing by learners produced as a product of this project.

The ideal candidate will be a people person, experienced in group facilitating, with an understanding of adult literacy and good clerical, organizational and bookkeeping skills.

Applicants should submit a two-page letter written in clear, plain language outlining their background in adult literacy, experience in facilitating groups and why they are applying (no resumes please). The starting date is October 1, 1999. The deadline for applications is July 31, 1999.

Mail applications to:
Wendy Tagami
810 Kokanee Avenue
Nelson, B.C. V1L 3P6
Phone: (250) 352-6802



Donor Appreciation

Thank you to the following individuals who have donated \$100 or more to Literacy BC:

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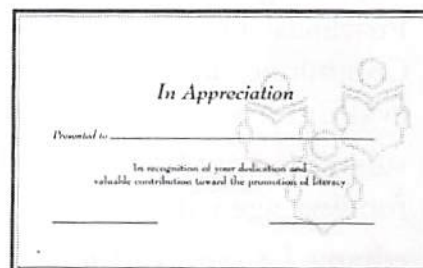
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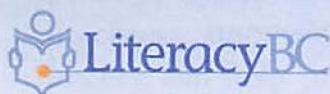
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 Internet: www.nald.ca/lbc.htm

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